



CIRCULAR

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2019

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is being organised at Varanasi from 21-23 January, 2019 in partnership with State of Uttar Pradesh. This time, the participants will also have the opportunity to participate in Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj and Republic Day celebrations at New Delhi.

2. External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and CM of UP Shri Yogi Adityanath jointly inaugurated the PBD website, thus commencing the registration process for participating in the PBD 2019. The registration will be open for 2 months till 15 November, 2018. The registration, program and payment details are available on the PBD website.

3. The link for the PBD 2019 website is www.pbdindia.gov.in.

4. The important elements of the preparations towards the mega-event of PBD 2019 include arrangements for travel and stay of over 5000 participants that are expected to join the PBD Convention. The entire duration of the programme spans six days - from 21 January to 26 January, 2019; however, participation in Kumbh Mela and witness Republic Day Parade is optional. The participants will have the option to choose their stay either in hotel or tented Swiss cottages in Varanasi when they register on the website. Tented accommodations will be arranged at Prayagraj near the Sangam for those who choose to partake in the Kumbha Mela. **As number of accommodations in Prayagraj and number of tickets for Republic Day Parade are limited, these would be provided on first come first serve basis. The organizer (Ministry of External Affairs) also arranging for the local transport for pick and drop to the venue and guided tours for local sightseeing in and around Varanasi and Prayagraj, including visit to Kashi Vishwanath temple and River Ganga Aarti at Varanasi. Participants will be taken to Prayagraj in Special AC Volvo coaches and brought back to Delhi in Special AC trains. Arrangements are also being made for their participation in the Republic Day Parade. Lunches and dinners will be arranged for all the 3 days of PBD Convention. Our Diaspora participants will also experience India's rich cultural heritage and progress and innovation through Cultural Evenings and Exhibitions that are being arranged as part of PBD 2019.**

5. A copy of the Programme is **enclosed** for kind information, please.

6. The High Commission of India would like to request the Indian diaspora community to kindly visit the above website and register on the website at the earliest. Appropriate visas to the participants of PBD Convention 2019 will be facilitated by the High Commission. For any other clarifications, please contact to Mr. Mark, Attaché (PIC) and his contact details are Tel No. +1 876 9273114; 9274270 and E-mail pic.kingston@mea.gov.in

